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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/602,525	06/24/2003	Ulrich Bantle	VO-647	1764
42419	7590	06/27/2005	EXAMINER	
PAULEY PETERSEN & ERICKSON 2800 WEST HIGGINS ROAD SUITE 365 HOFFMAN ESTATES, IL 60195			BOSWELL, CHRISTOPHER J	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3676	

DATE MAILED: 06/27/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/602,525	Applicant(s) BANTLE ET AL.	
	Examiner Christopher Boswell	Art Unit 3676	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 June 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5,7-12 and 14-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5,7-12 and 14-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 24 June 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

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DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

Applicant's request for reconsideration of the finality of the rejection of the last Office action is persuasive and, therefore, the finality of that action is withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-5, 7-12, and 14-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Number 6,516,640 to Jacobs et al., in view of U.S. Patent Number 6,539,756 to Bartels et al.

Jacobs et al. discloses the invention substantially as claimed. Jacobs et al. discloses a lock (10) including a bolt (40) that can be displaced by an actuating element (14) between an open position and a locking position, wherein a blocking piece (50 and 54) which blocks the actuating element in the locking position is assigned to the actuating element and wherein the blocking piece can be moved from the locking position into the opened position by a solenoid (18), the lock having the blocking piece movable out of the opened position into the locking position by a manually operable operating part (58; column 8, lines 61-65), as in claim 1. However, Jacobs et al. does not disclose a switching element that emits a signal when the blocking piece reaches the locking

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position or transitions from the open position to the locking position. Bartels et al. teaches of a lock with a bolt (22) that is displaced by an actuating element (25) where a blocking piece (28) blocks the actuating element and a switching element (10) that emits a switching signal to confirm when the blocking piece reaches the locking position or transitions from the opened position into the locking position (column 4, lines 4-12) in the same field of endeavor for the purpose of signaling the location of the steering wheel lock. It would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate a switch into the lock device of Jacobs, where the switch would be activated by the actuator, as in claim 7 and 14, when the blocking piece moves into the locked position, or transitions from the open position to the locked position, where the switch would be operated by the operating part in order to emit a signal notifying the location of the of the blocking piece, as taught by Bartels et al.

Jacobs et al. also disclose the operating part (58) having a lever (22), which moves the blocking piece from the opened position into the locking position by a key element (column 8, lines 55-58), as in claim 2, wherein the blocking piece is a part of an actuator (20) which in the opened position is maintained under a spring bias (56) against a permanent magnet (magnet of the solenoid), and the actuator is lifted off the permanent magnet by the lever (column 4, lines 42-53), as in claim 3, and where the blocking piece is a part of an actuator (20) which, in the locking position, is maintained against a permanent magnet (magnet of the solenoid), and the actuator (20) is movable from the opened position to the locking position by a lever (22) against a force of a spring (56), as in claims 4 and 11.

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Jacobs et al. further disclose the operating part being maintained under spring tension (56) in an initial position associated with the opened position of the lock, as in claims 5 and 12, wherein the actuator (20) is an armature of the solenoid (column 4, lines 25-28), as in claims 8 and 15.

Jacobs et al. additionally disclose the actuating element being rotatably seated around an axis of rotation in a lock housing (figures 2-3), and the actuating element has a receptacle (48) for the blocking piece (50 and 54), which forms a stop in a circumferential direction on at least one of two sides of the inserted blocking piece (figures 2-5), as in claims 9 and 16, and where the locking position of the actuator blocks a displacement in a direction toward the actuating element (figures 2-5), as in claims 10 and 17.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-17 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The following patents are cited to further show the state of the art with respect to locking mechanisms with blocking devices:

U.S. Patent Number 6,862,907 to Hayashi et al., U.S. Patent Number 6,644,072 to Hsieh, U.S. Patent Number 5,255,547 to Burr et al., U.S. Patent Number 5,216,909 to Armoogam, U.S. Patent Number 4,784,415 to Malaval, U.S. Patent Number 3,680,335 to Onishi.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Christopher Boswell whose telephone number is (571) 272-7054. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00 - 4:00 M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Brian Glessner can be reached on (571) 272-6843. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

CJB CB
June 20, 2005



BRIAN E. GLESSNER
PRIMARY EXAMINER